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Letter from the Superior General

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**Letter of the Very Reverend Richard McCullen, C.M.,
superior general of the Congregation of the Mission
and the Company of the Daughters of Charity
to the symposium,
addressed to Father Edward Udovic, C.M.**

1 June 1989

Dear Father Udovic:

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us forever!

Let me congratulate you and the other members of the Vincentian Studies Institute on the initiative you have taken in organizing this symposium on "The Age of God: The Roots of our Tradition." Reading the program with its list of speakers and the topics on which they would lecture, I felt a strong desire to register my name as a participant. However, as Perryville is many "leagues" distant from Rome and as I have many "coach" journeys to do this month, I must renounce the pleasure of being with you from the 22nd to the 25th.

The names which you will be celebrating (and that is an appropriate verb) during the symposium are a marvelous constellation in the heaven of God's Saints. When I reflect on the lives of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise and the contacts they had with Saint Francis de Sales, Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Cardinal de Berulle, Monsieur Olier, Monsieur Condren and others of the French School, I can identify with the sentiments of the psalmist when he wrote: "When I see the heavens, the works of Your hands ... how great is Your name, O Lord, our God, through all the earth" (Ps 8). The wonder is that so many men and women, illustrious for their wisdom, vision and holiness, should have lived so close to each other in the span of a normal lifetime

We measure the distance of stars from each other by light years. These saintly stars of God's heaven, however, shone in a close cluster. They were close to each other, close to God, their maker, and close to the

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world of their time. My prayer for you and all the participants of the symposium is that through the lectures and discussions you will be able to close the gap of years that separate us from the Age of Gold.

With my warmest personal greetings to you and the participants, I am in the love of Our Lord,

Devotedly yours,

Richard McCullen, C.M.